

Workshops on cause of death data and CRVS strengthening in the

Republic of the Marshall Islands

12 – 15 March 2024

PROGRAMME

Overview

The Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), other Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) partners, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will run workshops in the Republic of Marshall Islands to build capacity in medical certification of cause of death and strengthen CRVS systems. These workshops will build on previous workshops¹ and are funded by Vital Strategies Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative and SPC/ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The workshops will comprise:

1. Training in medical certification of cause of death
2. Drafting action plans to improve medical certification of cause of death, verbal autopsy, coding support, vital statistics
3. Reconvening the CRVS committee and updating the CRVS Improvement Plan

Certificates of attendance will be awarded to participants of the medical death certification training. The workshops will make use of existing training materials and support tools developed by BAG partners and Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative.²

Participants

- **Days 1 and 2 on MCCD training is aimed at:**
 - Certifiers of cause-of-death including doctors and nurse practitioners
 - Hospital administrators and senior Ministry of Health staff
- **Day 3 on reconvening CRVS committee and workshopping CRVS improvement plan is aimed at:**
 - Representatives from Ministry of Health
 - Representatives from Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
 - Representatives from Ministry of Internal Affairs (includes Civil Registry Office)
 - other CRVS agencies; development partners; and academic institutions.

Funders



¹ See [Regional Training Workshop on Medical Certification of Cause of Death | Statistics for Development Division](#) and [Regional Training Workshops on ICD Mortality Coding | Statistics for Development Division \(spc.int\)](#)

² See above footnote 1.

Days 1 & 2 - Medical certification of cause of death workshop

Days 1 & 2	
Time	Topic/Session
08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:00	Welcome & Opening remarks Opening prayer Introductions
09:00-09:30	Importance of medical certification of cause of death Uses of cause of death data
09:30-10:00	Cause of death and the concept of underlying cause of death International/U.S. Standard form of the medical certificate of cause death (MCCD) Country MCCD form
10:00-10:30	Group Photo and Morning tea break
10:30-11:00	General guidelines for completing the MCCD with case examples
11:00-11:30	Common errors in certification
11:30-12:30	Guidelines for certifying specific causes/conditions: neoplasms, surgical procedures, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, infectious & parasitic diseases
12:30-13:15	Lunch Break
13:15-14:15	Guidelines for certifying specific causes/conditions (continued): pregnancy and maternal deaths; External causes, medico-legal cases
14:15-15:15	Peer-to-peer/group presentations on case scenarios
15:15-15:30	Afternoon Tea Break
15:30-16:30	Draft action plan to improve training in medical certification
16:30-17:00	Workshop evaluation; Certificates

Day 3 - CRVS stakeholders meeting

Day 3	
Time	Topic/ Session
08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:00	Welcome & Opening remarks; Introductions
09:00-09:15	Overview of Pacific CRVS
09:15-09:45	Strategies to improve coding capacity and support - report back from last 2 days and overview of initiatives
09:45-10:30	Challenges to birth and death registration and vital statistics – recap USAPI CRVS TWG findings
10:30-11:00	Group Photo and Morning Tea break
11:00-12:30	Discuss local CRVS priorities and review against those assessed at USAPI CRVS TWG meeting
12:30-13:15	Lunch Break
13:15-15:30	Draft CRVS Improvement Action Plan
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Tea Break
16:00-16:30	Next steps to maintain the CRVS Committee/ TWG and finalise action plan